

HAWTHORNE NAVAL AMMUNITION DEPOT, CARPENTER SHOP  
~~(Production Area)~~  
(Building No. 359)  
U.S. Highway 95  
Hawthorne  
Mineral County  
Nevada

HABS No. NV-21-E

HABS  
NEV  
H-HAWT,  
QE-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Western Region  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California 94107

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## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### HAWTHORNE NAVAL AMMUNITION DEPOT

Carpenter Shop (Bldg. No. 359)

HABS No. NV-21-E

Location: 115 Area, Production Area  
Hawthorne Army Ammunition Plant,  
Hawthorne, Mineral County, Nevada

#### Significance:

The Carpenter Shop, Building No. 359, was built in 1943 during the tremendous expansion of the Depot during the World War II period. It was constructed in the Production Area east of Highway 95 in the 115 area which includes this shop and 87 High Explosive Magazines.

The Hawthorne Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) is a nationally significant military district. It was built for state-of-the-art ammunition storage in the late 1920s (criterion C); it is by and far the largest depot of its kind known in the world with 2501 magazines and storehouses, 212 miles of railroad track, 418 miles of blacktop, and 232 square miles of land (criterion C); and it is significant for its role in World War II. Producing a vast amount of ordnance, it was THE Naval Ammunition Depot for the Pacific Theater during World War II.

Operations have included: production of propellant charges, projectiles, bombs and rockets; demilitarization of all types of munitions; and storage of national stock piles of munitions. Since the 1940s until the facility was turned over to the Army in 1977, Hawthorne NAD was the country's largest producer of Navy mines and depth charges.

The Depot is also significant for the role it played in the military history of the State of Nevada. It represents 50 plus years of federal military operation in Nevada. The Hawthorne NAD is the oldest twentieth century U. S. military reservation in Nevada. It has been in continuous active operational status since its commissioning in 1930 (criterion A). The Depot is the best collection of early twentieth century military, cultural resources in Nevada (criterion C). The Hawthorne NAD represents the largest industrial activity in the State of Nevada during World War II, as well as during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts.

The operation has been the local area's major employer and has represented relative economic stability to the town of Hawthorne since its commissioning. The Depot significantly changed the fortunes of the town of Hawthorne.

Over 90% of the buildings within the 148,000 plus acres of the Hawthorne NAD date from World War II or before. The district as a whole and great majority of the individual buildings within it retain integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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Description:

The Carpenter Shop, Building No. 359, is 24' by 45', rectangular-in-plan, one story with no visible foundation. The exterior siding is corrugated metal. The building has four small 6 light, wood framed windows hinged at the top with plain surrounds. The building has a pair of solid wooden doors. A low pitched, front facing, gable roof of rolled asphalt covers the building.

The interior of the building is primarily finished with wide vertical boards on the walls and ceiling. The boards appear to be reused. One interior wall is finished with tarpaper over 1" by 6" horizontal boards over studs. The floor is wooden planks. The building is divided into two rooms.

History:

The Hawthorne NAD was created by an Act of Congress following the destruction of the Navy's East Coast main ammunition facility in 1926. In 1928, \$3.5 million were allotted for the development of the Naval Ammunition Depot at Hawthorne. Starting in 1935, plans were laid to increase the size of the depot. In 1939 the expansion began in earnest and the depot began producing ammunition and shipping it to classified locations. With the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Hawthorne NAD took on new importance; the Hawthorne depot was the principal west coast naval ammunition plant. Over 2,000 construction workers increased the size of the depot tenfold during World War II and 5,500 workers produced a tremendous amount of ammunition. Bombs, mines, and rockets were filled and assembled at Hawthorne NAD. Mines and rockets were also being developed and tested here.

The Hawthorne Depot continued to play an important role in the Navy's chain of producing, storing, and destroying munitions after World War II. After W.W.II the depot was responsible for the destruction of thousands of tons of munitions. During the Korean and Vietnam conflicts the Hawthorne NAD provided back-up storage of conventional ammunition and mines for the entire Pacific theater. In 1977, under directive of the Department of Defense, Hawthorne Naval Ammunition Depot was transferred to the Army and became the Hawthorne Army Ammunition Plant.

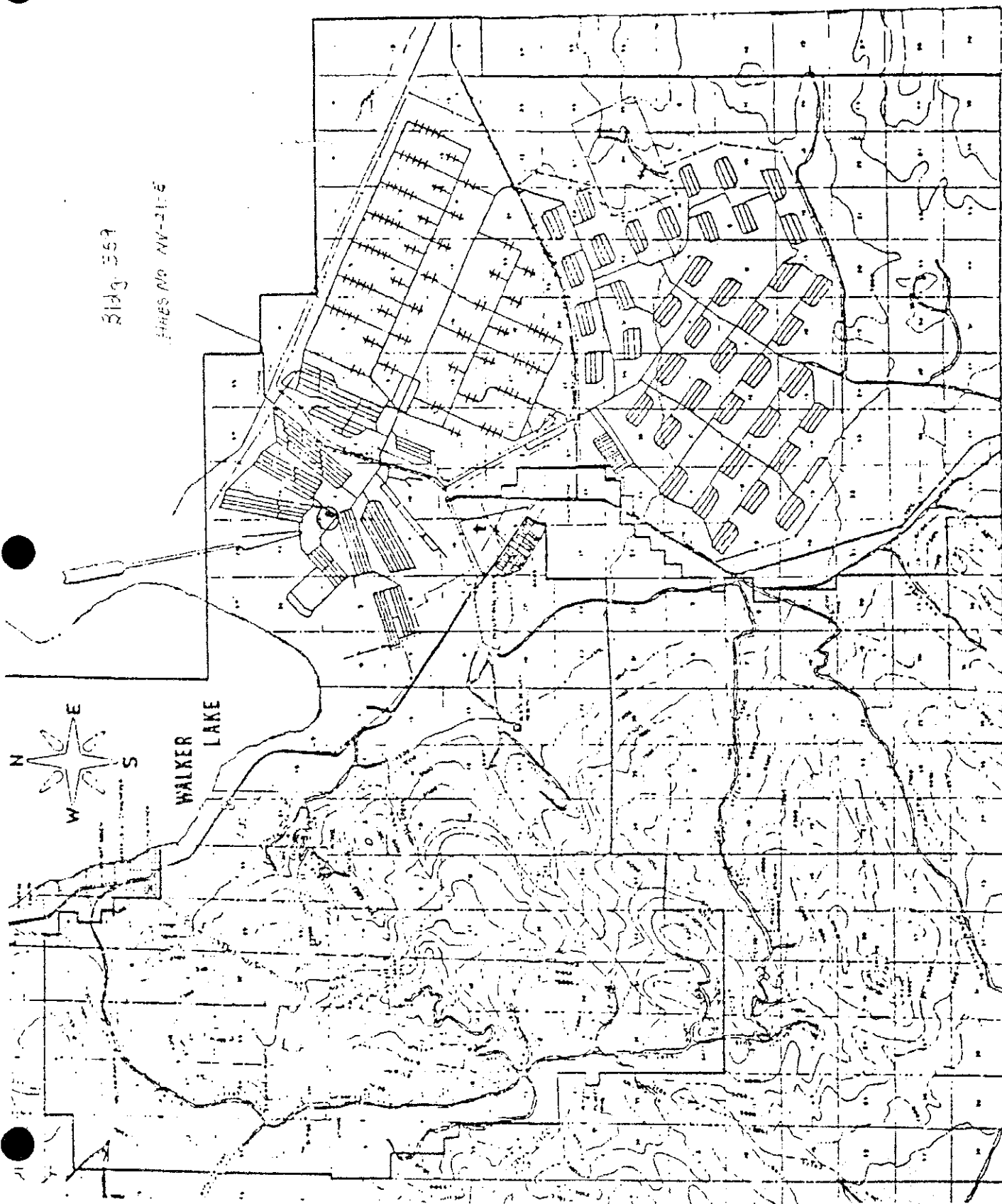
Sources:

Koval, Ana B. "Hawthorne Naval Ammunition Depot" National Register of Historic Places District nomination. 1989.

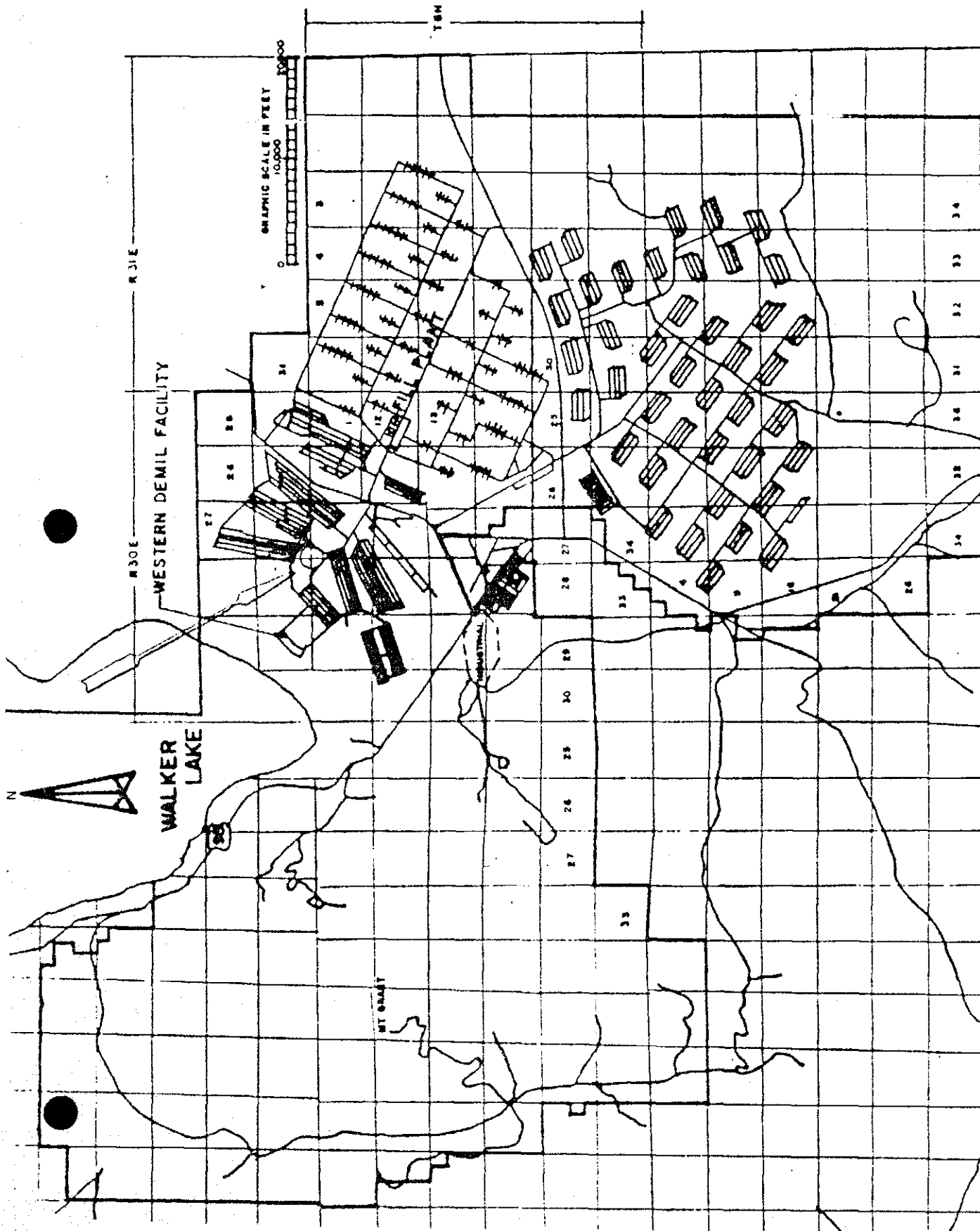
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VICINITY MAP



**HAWTHORNE ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT**

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